He had said it, their Prince, and now King Charming—that something would be done for them, and they were comforted. If he, a King, wanted to do something for them, surely he could do it, when the efforts of Chief Commissioners, Secretaries of State, Members of Parliament, even Labour ones, however well intentioned and informed, had all proved fruitless. Let him give the word, and at last the stagnation of twenty years would be ended. A King could work the miracle; not promoting a parliamentary bill, or requiring votes or preparing a report; just ordering—'Let this desolation be desolate no longer, and these outcasts no more outcast!'

Enthusiastic accounts of the King's tour appeared in most newspapers. A new age seemed to have dawned; the King would deliver his people as of old, instead of leaving deliverance to querulous politicians, who either wanted to help the poor by taking from the rich, or help the rich by preventing the poor from improving their conditions. This dilemma, only a King could resolve—disperse South Wales's misery without adding to Lord Rothermere's, increase its prosperity without reducing his. Lord Rothermere, no less than South Wales, rejoiced at the prospect of its being resolved.

*The Times* did not share in the prevailing jubilation, and ventured to point out that, in accordance with constitutional practice, the Sovereign could only act through his Ministers. South Wales miners might rapturously cheer the King, and pointedly ignore the more prosaic Sir Kingsley Wood and Mr. Brown, but it was on them, not on him, that

responsibility rested to execute any undertakings carelessly given in an emotional moment. The King was a symbol, they were responsible administrators; and these separate functions must not be confused.

Now was clearly audible the first rumble of an approaching storm, which, despite appearances to the contrary, would dislodge the King, and leave Sir Kingsley and Mr. Brown unharmed. Dr. Blunt, Bishop of Bradford, unknowingly started it—like an elderly visitor at a Swiss mountain resort who,